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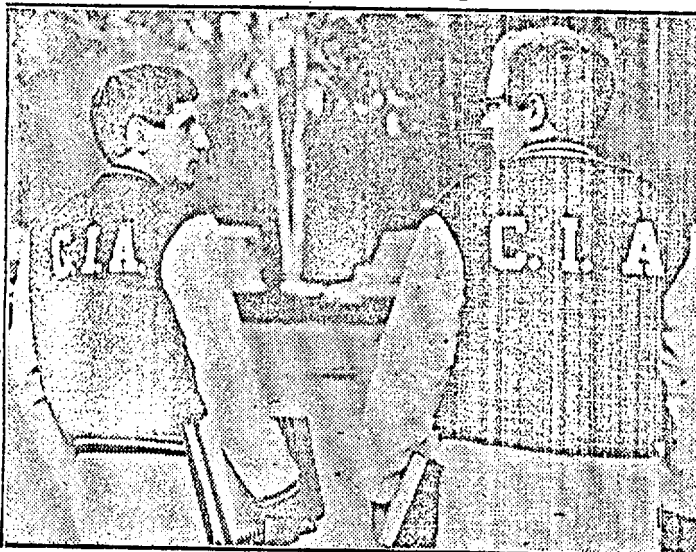
Johnson Backs CIA, Subsidies

CPYRGHT

By RICHARD McGOWAN

Washington, Feb. 23 (NEWS Bureau)—President Johnson strongly endorsed the Central Intelligence Agency today and exonerated the spy agency for its secret subsidies to student organizations and other private agencies.

Food for Thought



(Associated Press Wirefoto)

No, Tom Busch and Ed Potter aren't attending school in New Haven on Central Intelligence Agency grants. Fellows are en route to classes at Culinary Institute of America.

Johnson received a preliminary report of an investigation into CIA activities by Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach. Katzenbach, a former Attorney General, concluded that the CIA had operated in accordance with national policies established as far back as 1952, that the subsidy operations were valuable to the country and that the CIA continues to be indispensable.

White House Press Secretary George Christian was explicit in disclosing that Johnson agreed with Katzenbach's conclusions.

Katzenbach heads a top-level committee reviewing the headline grabbing CIA affair.

Johnson asked Katzenbach when the review would be completed during a White House reception Tuesday night. In a letter dated Feb. 22 and released today, Katzenbach said he hoped to have it finished early next month.

Katzenbach defended the spy agency for acting in accordance with policies established by the National Security Council in 1952 through 1954.